

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 3:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.Res. 352—Providing for Consideration of Motions to Suspend the Rules
H.Con.Res. 202—Day Care Fairness for Stay-at-Home Parents
S. 927—National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act

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H.Res. 352—Providing for Consideration of Motions to Suspend the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.Res. 352 as its first order of business today. The resolution is debatable for one hour and may not be amended.

Summary: H.Res. 352 permits the House to consider bills under suspension of the rules on Wednesday and Thursday, February 11-12. Under House rules, suspensions may be considered only on Monday or Tuesday unless the House adopts a special rule or agrees to a unanimous consent request to consider suspensions later in the week. The resolution requires the speaker to consult with the minority leader on any suspension considered under the resolution. The Rules Committee reported the resolution by a vote of 8-0 on February 5.

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following two bills under suspension of the rules after it completes consideration of H.Res. 352. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.Con.Res. 202 expresses the sense of Congress that the federal government should acknowledge the importance of at-home parents and should not discriminate against families who forgo a second

income in order for one parent to stay at home with their children. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Goodling and was not considered by a committee.

S. 927—National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act, as amended by the House, reauthorizes the National Sea Grant College Program Act through FY 2003 to carry out its contract, grant, fellowship, and administrative functions. The bill sets new authorization levels at \$56 million in FY 1999, \$57 million in FY 2000, \$58 million in FY 2001, \$59 million in FY 2002, and \$60 million in FY 2003. The bill also incorporates recommendations of the National Research Council, which include provisions to (1) clarify the responsibilities of sea grant colleges, the national program office, and the director of the program; (2) streamline the grant process; and (3) require the national office to ensure that all research is peer-reviewed and that all sea grant colleges follow those guidelines when awarding grants.

In addition, the bill also:

- * establishes new criteria that applicants must meet in order to qualify for designation as a sea grant college or institute;
- * caps spending for program administration and small business innovation research activities at six percent of the total appropriation;
- * repeals the Sea Grant International Program and the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program; and
- * authorizes appropriations for university research allocated through competitive grants in the amounts of (1) \$2.8 million for zebra mussel research; (2) \$3 million for research on oyster diseases and oyster-related human health risks; and (3) \$3 million for research on *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other harmful algal blooms.

The Senate passed S. 927 by unanimous consent on November 13, 1997. The House passed similar legislation, H.R. 437 (*H.Rept. 105-22, Pts. I & II*), on June 18, 1997, by a vote of 422-3. A CBO estimate for the House substitute to S. 927 was unavailable at press time. The Resources Committee reported the House-passed version of the bill, H.R. 437, by voice vote on March 5, 1997. The Science Committee reported H.R. 437 by voice vote on April 16, 1997. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation reported S. 927 on June 19, 1997, by unanimous consent.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #2, February 6, 1998.

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